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Commission on Population and Development

Report on the thirty-seventh session (22-26 March and 6 May 2004)

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Summary

The thirty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development was held at United Nations Headquarters from 22 to 26 March and on 6 May 2004. The special theme for the session was "Review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development".

The documents before the Commission included a report focusing on the review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. This report was on the second quinquennial review and appraisal and was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2003/229 of 21 July 2003. The report provided overviews of population levels and trends, and population growth, structure and distribution in the world and its major areas. These were followed by four sections focusing on clusters of issues: reproductive rights and reproductive health, health and mortality, international migration, and population programmes. The overarching conclusion of the report is that the decade since the adoption of the Programme of Action has been one of substantial progress. However, progress has not been universal, as there have also been shortfalls and gaps. The report concludes that continued efforts and commitment are needed to mobilize sufficient human and financial resources, to strengthen institutional capacities, and to nurture partnerships among Governments, the international community, non-governmental organizations and civil society.

Other documents before the Commission included the report of the Bureau of the Commission on its intersessional meeting, held in Vilnius on November 2003; the report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action; the report of the Secretary-General on the programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2003; and the note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007.

The Commission heard keynote addresses by Mr. Brunson McKinley, Director-General of the International Organization for Migration (Geneva); Ms. Barbara Crossette, former United Nations Bureau Chief of *The New York Times* (New York); and Mr. Riad Tabbarah, Director of the Centre for Development Studies and Projects (Beirut).

In its consideration of follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development (agenda item 3), the Commission adopted one decision and one resolution. In the decision, the Commission reaffirmed that the special theme for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission in 2005 should be "Population, development and HIV/AIDS, with particular emphasis on poverty" and decided that the Commission should also consider in 2005 the contribution of the implementation of the Programme of Action, in all its aspects, to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. In addition, the Commission decided that the special theme for its thirty-ninth session in 2006 should be "International migration and development".

In the resolution adopted under this agenda item, the Commission reaffirmed the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation. In that resolution, the Commission, inter alia, also stressed that the implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions made an essential contribution to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals; recalled the financial costs involved in implementing the Programme of Action; reiterated the urgent necessity of increased political will from all Governments and reaffirmation of the commitment for mobilization of international assistance; reiterated that Governments should continue to commit themselves at the highest political level to achieving the Programme of Action's goals and objectives; recognized that the effective implementation of the Programme of Action would require an increased commitment of financial resources; urged donor countries to fulfil their commitments with regard to official development assistance for population assistance; called upon donors and developing countries to make every effort to strengthen their commitment to meet the estimated costs of the Programme of Action; encouraged Governments, international organizations, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders to assist developing countries through technical assistance and capacity-building activities; reiterated that international cooperation in the field of population and development was essential for the implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation; emphasized the importance of building and sustaining partnerships among Governments and relevant civil society stakeholders; and called upon the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to continue to play a crucial role, within its mandate, in helping recipient countries to achieve the goals and targets contained in the Programme of Action, the key actions for its further implementation and the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

In its review of the methods of work of the Commission (agenda item 4 bis), the Commission adopted one draft decision. In this decision, the Commission decided to consider its methods of work at its thirty-eighth session; requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission at its thirty-eighth session on the improvements in the methods of work; decided to elect the Bureau of the Commission on the final day of each session; and also decided to establish a system of regular geographical rotation for the chairmanship of the Commission.

In its consideration of the work programme in the field of population (agenda item 5), the Commission adopted one resolution. In that resolution, the Commission, inter alia, reaffirmed the importance of the work of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. The Commission also emphasized that the Population Division should continue its basic work on population estimates and projections; rural and urban population change; international migration; changing population age structures; fertility and mortality levels and trends; interrelationships among population, resources, environment and development; and the evolution of population policies. In the same resolution, the Commission requested that the Population Division continue assessing progress towards the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action, and continue its work on the impact of HIV/AIDS on population and development; emphasized the need for the Population Division and UNFPA to enhance coordination and collaboration between them; underlined that UNFPA played a

crucial role, within its mandate, in helping recipient countries to achieve the agreed goals and targets contained in the Programme of Action; and encouraged the Population Division to continue its technical cooperation activities.

The Commission also decided to take note of the documents submitted at its session (E/CN.9/2004/3-6). The Commission approved the draft provisional agenda for its thirty-eighth session, to be held in New York in 2005, and adopted its report on its thirty-seventh session.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision

1. The Commission on Population and Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirty-seventh session and provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirty-seventh session;

(b) Approves the provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session

Report of the Bureau of the Commission on its intersessional meeting

3. Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring, focusing on population, development and HIV/AIDS, with particular emphasis on poverty

Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes focusing on population, development and HIV/AIDS, with particular emphasis on poverty

Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

4. Contribution of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, in all its aspects, to

the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the contribution of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, in all its aspects, to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration

5. General debate on national experience in population matters: population, development and HIV/AIDS, with particular emphasis on poverty.

6. Review of the methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the working methods of the Commission on Population and Development

7. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population, 2004

8. Provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission

9. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-eighth session.

10. Election of officers for the thirty-ninth session.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

Resolution 2004/1
Work programme in the field of population*

The Commission on Population and Development,

* For the discussion, see chap. IV.

Recalling decision 1995/2 and resolutions 1996/1 and 1997/3 of the Commission on Population and Development on the work programme in the field of population, and the reports of the Commission on the sessions corresponding thereto,[1]

Recognizing that the Commission on Population and Development is the primary forum for follow-up and review of the outcomes relative to population and development of the International Conference on Population and Development and other major United Nations conferences and summits,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of the work of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in providing the United Nations system and the international community with comprehensive and scientifically sound inputs for the analysis of progress made in achieving the goals and objectives on population and development set in the outcomes of major United Nations summits and conferences, especially the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[2] the key actions for its further implementation[3] and the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;[4]

2. *Emphasizes* that, in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change,[5] the Population Division should continue basic work on population estimates and projections; patterns of rural and urban population change; the analysis of international migration; the implications of the changing age structure of the population for development; the increasing diversity of fertility and mortality levels and trends; the interrelations among population, resources, the environment and development; and the evolution of population policies, applying a gender perspective in this regard;

3. *Requests* the Population Division, working in collaboration with all relevant bodies, particularly the United Nations Population Fund and other funds, and programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to continue assessing progress made towards the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action and, in collaboration with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other relevant agencies, programmes and funds, to continue its work on the impact of HIV/AIDS on population and development;

4. *Emphasizes* the need for the Population Division and the United Nations Population Fund, within their respective mandates, to enhance coordination and strengthen cooperation and collaboration between them to improve support for the implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation;

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[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 7* (E/1995/27); ibid., *1996, Supplement No. 5* (E/1996/25); and ibid., *1997, Supplement No. 5* (E/1997/25).

[2] See *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18).

[3] See General Assembly resolution S-21/2; and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Special Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/S-21/5/Rev.1).

[4] General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

[5] A/57/387 and Corr.1.

5. *Underlines* that the United Nations Population Fund plays a crucial role, within its mandate, in helping recipient countries to achieve the agreed goals and targets contained in the Programme of Action, the key actions for its further implementation and the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[6]

6. *Encourages* the Population Division to continue its technical cooperation activities with the aim of building capacity for population research and demographic training in developing countries, particularly through the use of new information and communication technologies.

Resolution 2004/2
Follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development*

The Commission on Population and Development,

Bearing in mind that 2004 marks the tenth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994, and of the adoption of its Programme of Action,[7]

Concerned that, based on current trends, many countries may fall short of achieving the agreed goals and commitments of the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration[8] and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained therein,

Reiterating the call to implement fully and build further on the commitments made and agreements reached at the International Conference on Financing for Development,[9]

Recalling General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003,

Bearing in mind the goals and objectives on population and development of the other major United Nations conferences and summits, and their reviews,

Welcoming the decision of the General Assembly to commemorate at its fifty-ninth session the tenth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[10]

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* For the discussion, see chap. II.

[6] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[7] See *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18).

[8] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[9] See *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[10] E/CN.9/2004/3.

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development: a 10-year review",[11]

Noting that the current levels of financing, including levels of official development assistance, are still well below those needed to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Stressing the importance of population and reproductive health for development,

Bearing in mind the report of the International Conference on Population and Development and on the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action,[12] in their entirety,

1. *Reaffirms* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[7] and the key actions for its further implementation;[12]

2. *Stresses* that the implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions makes an essential contribution to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[8]

3. *Recalls* that it has been estimated that, in the developing countries and countries with economics in transition, the implementation of programmes in the area of reproductive health will cost, in 1993 United States dollars, $18.5 billion in 2005 and $21.7 billion in 2015,[13] and that it is tentatively estimated that up to two thirds of the costs will continue to be met by the countries themselves and approximately one third from external resources;

4. *Reiterates* that increased political will from all Governments and reaffirmation of the commitment for mobilization of international assistance, as agreed in Cairo, are urgently needed to accelerate the implementation of the Programme of Action, which will in turn contribute to the advancement of the broad population and development agenda;

5. *Also reiterates* that Governments should continue to commit themselves at the highest political level to achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action, inter alia, through the integration of the Programme of Action in programmes and national policies for poverty eradication;

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[11] E/CN.9/2004/4.

[12] See General Assembly resolution S-21/2; and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Special Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/S-21/5/Rev.1).

[13] See *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex, para. 13.15 (a).

6. *Recognizes* that the effective implementation of the Programme of Action will require an increased commitment of financial resources, both domestically and externally, and in this context calls upon developed countries to complement the national financial efforts of developing countries related to population and development and intensify their efforts to transfer new and additional resources to the developing countries, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Programme of Action, in order to ensure that population and development objectives and goals are met;

7. *Urges* donor countries to fulfil their commitments with regard to their official development assistance for population assistance;

8. *Calls upon* both donors and developing countries to make every effort to strengthen their commitment to meet the estimated costs of the Programme of Action;

9. *Encourages* Governments, international organizations, including those of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders to assist developing countries in implementing the Programme of Action through technical assistance and capacity-building activities to accelerate the implementation of the Programme of Action;

10. *Reiterates* that international cooperation in the field of population and development is essential for the implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation and for the attainment of its goals by 2015, and calls upon the international community to continue to provide, both bilaterally and multilaterally, support and assistance for population and development activities in the developing countries;

11. *Emphasizes* the importance of building and sustaining partnerships among Governments and relevant civil society stakeholders, in accordance with section V of the key actions, so as to strengthen the capacity of developing countries for the successful implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation, and invites all Governments and relevant organizations of the United Nations system, as well as the private sector and non-governmental organizations, to continue to support these activities;

12. *Calls upon* the United Nations Population Fund to continue to play a crucial role, within its mandate, in helping recipient countries to achieve the goals and targets contained in the Programme of Action, the key actions for its further implementation and the United Nations Millennium Declaration, recognizing the strong and widespread support for the activities of the Fund.

Decision 2004/1
Special themes for the Commission on Population and Development in the years 2005-2006*

The Commission on Population and Development:

(a) Reaffirms that the special theme for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission in 2005 shall be "Population, development and HIV/AIDS, with particular emphasis on poverty";

(b) Decides that the Commission should also consider in 2005 the contribution of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, in all its aspects, to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[14]

(c) Decides that the special theme for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission in 2006 shall be "International migration and development", as a contribution of the Commission to the high-level dialogue of the General Assembly on the issue.

Decision 2004/2
Methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development**

The Commission on Population and Development, recalling General Assembly resolution 57/270 B, of 23 June 2003, paragraph 46, in which the Assembly requested that each functional commission examine its methods of work in order to better pursue the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits:

(a) Decides to consider its methods of work at its thirty-eighth session;

(b) Requests the Secretary-General, upon consultation with States Members of the United Nations and observers, to submit a report to the Commission at its thirty-eighth session on the improvements in the methods of work of the Commission;

(c) Decides to elect the Bureau of the Commission on the final day of each session;

(d) Also decides to establish a system of regular geographical rotation for the chairmanship of the Commission.

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* For the discussion, see chap. II.

** For the discussion, see chap. III.

[14] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

Decision 2004/3
Documents considered by the Commission on Population and Development at its thirty-seventh session

The Commission on Population and Development takes note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2004/3);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development: a 10-year review (E/CN.9/2004/4);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2003: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/2004/5);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007 (E/CN.9/2004/6).

Chapter II

Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development

1. The Commission held a general discussion on item 3 of its agenda, entitled "Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development", at its 1st, 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 22 and 23 March 2004. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2004/3);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development: a 10-year review (E/CN.9/2004/4);

(c) Letter dated 17 February 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the summary of deliberations of the European Population Forum, held in Geneva from 12 to 14 January 2004 (A/59/61);

(d) Statement submitted by World Population Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.9/2004/NGO/1);

(e) Statement submitted by IPAS, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.9/2004/NGO/2);

(f) Statement submitted by Interact Worldwide (formerly Population Concern), International Family Health and Italian Association for Women in Development, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.9/2004/NGO/3).

2. At the 1st meeting, on 22 March, introductory statements were made by the Director of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat; the Chief of the Population Studies Branch of the Population Division; and the Chief, Population and Development Branch, Technical Support Division, of the United Nations Population Fund.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Ireland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia), the United States of America and the Russian Federation and the observer for Qatar (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China).

4. At the 2nd meeting, on 22 March, statements were made by the representatives of Madagascar, Norway, Japan, Peru, Guyana, Luxembourg, the Islamic Republic of Iran, China and Mexico and the observers for Brazil, Ethiopia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Switzerland.

5. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

6. Also at the 2nd meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Partners in Population and Development, an intergovernmental organization.

7. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

8. Also at the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the observers for Cuba (in its capacity as Chairman of the sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) and Switzerland (in its capacity as host of the European Population Forum organized jointly with the Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Population Fund (Geneva, 12-14 January 2004)).

9. At the 3rd meeting, on 23 March, statements were made by the representatives of Bangladesh, Egypt, Jamaica and Malaysia and the observers for Cuba, Chile and Uganda.

10. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Population Fund and the Economic Commission for Europe.

11. Also at the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the World Bank and the World Health Organization.

Action taken by the Commission

Follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

12. At its 9th meeting, on 6 May, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2004/L.6)", submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

13. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Mrs. Kitty van der Heijden (Netherlands), reported on the outcome of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution.

14. Also, at the 9th meeting, amendments to the footnotes of the draft resolution were read out by the Secretary of the Commission.

15. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as amended (see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 2004/2).

16. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America,[1] Qatar (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), and Ireland[1] (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union). The candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the EFTA countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, aligned themselves with this

[1] See annex II.

statement. Canada, New Zealand and Switzerland requested to be associated with this statement.

17. Also at the 9th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Nicaragua, Chile, Egypt[1] and Russian Federation.

Special themes for the Commission on Population and Development in 2005-2006

18. At the 8th meeting, on 26 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled "Special themes for the Commission on Population and Development in the years 2005-2006" (E/CN.9/2004/L.5), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

19. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2004/1).

Documents considered by the Commission under agenda item 3

20. At the 8th meeting, on 26 March, upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission took note of the documentation submitted under agenda item 3 (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2004/3).

Chapter III

General debate on national experience in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and review of the methods of work of the Commission

1. The Commission held a general discussion on item 4 of its agenda, entitled "General debate on national experience in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development", jointly with item 4 bis, entitled "Review of the methods of work of the Commission", at its 4th, 5th and 6th meetings, on 23 and 24 March 2004.

2. At the 4th meeting, on 23 March, statements were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Norway, China, Botswana, the Netherlands, Indonesia, El Salvador, Mexico, France, Poland, Turkey, Bolivia, Luxembourg and Belgium and the observers for South Africa, Algeria, Ecuador, Canada, Croatia and Tunisia.

3. At the 5th meeting, on 24 March, statements were made by the representatives of the Philippines, Kenya, Peru, Jamaica and Ghana and the observers for Uruguay, Argentina, Australia, Sweden, the United Republic of Tanzania and Portugal.

4. At the 6th meeting, on 24 March, statements were made by the representatives of India, Nicaragua, Ireland, Zambia, Lithuania and Malaysia and the observers for Colombia, Cuba, Switzerland and the Syrian Arab Republic.

5. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

Keynote addresses

6. At its 3rd meeting, on 23 March, the Commission heard a keynote address by Brunson McKinley, Director-General, International Organization for Migration (Geneva), which was followed by a discussion in which the delegations of Bangladesh, Lebanon, Indonesia, Tunisia, Canada, the Philippines, Ireland and Chile took part.

7. At its 5th meeting, on 24 March, the Commission heard a keynote address by Barbara Crossette, former United Nations Bureau Chief of *The New York Times*, which was followed by a discussion in which the delegations of Bolivia, the Philippines, India, Uganda, the United States of America, Sweden and Kenya took part.

8. At its 7th meeting, on 25 March, the Commission heard a keynote address by Riad Tabbarah, Director, Centre for Development Studies and Projects, Beirut, which was followed by a discussion in which the delegations of the Syrian Arab Republic, Mexico, Lebanon and Kenya and the representatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic Commission for Europe took part.

Action taken by the Commission

Methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development

9. At its 8th meeting, on 26 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled "Methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development" (E/CN.9/2004/L.4), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

10. At the same meeting, the Chairman amended the draft decision by inserting in paragraph (b), after the words "States Member of the United Nations" the words "and observers", and deleting in the same paragraph the words "the Holy See and Palestine".

11. Also at the 8th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended (see chap. I, sect. B , decision 2004/2).

12. Before the adoption of the draft decision, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and Chile.

13. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Secretary of the Commission.

Chapter IV

Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

1. The Commission held a general discussion on item 5 of its agenda, entitled "Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population", at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 24 and 25 March 2004. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2003: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/2004/5);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007 (E/CN.9/2004/6).

2. At the 6th meeting, on 24 March, an introductory statement was made by the Director of the Population Division.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, China and the Russian Federation.

4. Also at the 6th meeting, the representatives of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean made statements.

5. At the same meeting, in accordance with rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council made statements: International Planned Parenthood Federation; International Union for the Scientific Study of Population; and IPAS.

6. At the 7th meeting, on 25 March, a statement was made by the representative of India.

7. At the same meeting, in accordance with rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council made statements: Federation for Women and Family Planning; American Life League; and Population Action International.

8. Also at the 7th meeting, a statement was made by the Director of the Population Division.

Action taken by the Commission

Work programme in the field of population

9. At its 8th meeting, on 26 March, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled "Work programme in the field of population", submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations, and contained in an informal paper in English only.

10. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 2004/1).

Documents considered by the Commission under agenda items 3 and 5

11. At its 8th meeting, on 26 March, upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission took note of the documents submitted under agenda items 3 and 5 (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2004/3).

Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission

1. At its 8th meeting, on 26 March 2004, the Commission had before it the draft provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2004/L.2/Rev.1).

2. At the same meeting, the Secretary orally corrected the document as follows:

Item 3 bis was renumbered as item 4 with a new sub-heading entitled "**Documentation**", new item 4 and its sub-heading were placed directly above the documentation item entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on the contribution of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, in all its aspects, to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration", and the subsequent items of the provisional agenda were renumbered accordingly.

3. Also at the 8th meeting, the Commission decided to recommend the draft provisional agenda contained in document E/CN.9/2004/L.2/Rev.1, as orally revised, to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A).

Chapter VI

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-seventh session

1. At its 9th meeting, on 6 May 2004, the Commission adopted the draft report on its thirty-seventh session (E/CN.9/2004/L.3), as introduced by the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur.

2. At the same meeting, the Commission authorized the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur to finalize the report.

Chapter VII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission held its thirty-seventh session at United Nations Headquarters from 22 to 26 March and on 6 May 2004. The Commission held 9 meetings (1st to 9th).

2. The session was opened by the Chairman of the thirty-sixth session, Gediminas Šerkšnys (Lithuania).

3. Opening statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and the Director of the Population Division.

B. Attendance

4. The session was attended by 41 States Members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for one non-member State also attended. Representatives of the specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations also attended. The list of participants will be issued as document E/CN.9/2004/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

5. At its 1st meeting, on 22 March, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman:
Alfredo Chuquihuara (Peru)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Khondker M. Talha (Bangladesh)
Gediminas Šerkšnys (Lithuania)
Kitty van der Heijden (Netherlands)

Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur:
Mohamed Elfarnawany (Egypt)

D. Report of the Bureau on its intersessional meeting

6. At its 1st meeting, on 22 March, the Commission heard a statement by Gediminas Šerkšnys (Lithuania), Chairman of the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, who introduced the report of the Bureau of the Commission on its intersessional meeting, which had been held in Vilnius on 13 and 14 November 2003 (E/CN.9/2004/2).

7. At the same meeting, the Commission took note of the report.

E. Agenda

8. At its 1st meeting, on 22 March, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/CN.9/2004/1, as orally revised. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters:
   (a) Report of the Bureau on its intersessional meeting;
   (b) Agenda and organization of work.
3. Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development.
4. General debate on national experience in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

4bis. Review of the methods of work of the Commission.

5. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.
6. Provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-seventh session.

F. Documentation

9. The list of documents before the Commission at its thirty-seventh session is contained in annex I.

Annex I

List of documents before the Commission at its thirty-seventh session

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.9/2004/1	2	Provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission
E/CN.9/2004/2	2	Report of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development on its intersessional meeting, held in Vilnius, 13 and 14 November 2003
E/CN.9/2004/3	3	Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
E/CN.9/2004/4	3	Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development: a 10-year review
E/CN.9/2004/5	5	Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2003: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
E/CN.9/2004/6	5	Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007
E/CN.9/2004/7	3	Letter dated 6 May 2004 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/2004/8	3	Letter dated 6 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
A/59/61	3	**Letter dated 17 February 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the summary of deliberations of the European Population Forum, held in Geneva from 12 to 14 January 2004**
E/CN.9/2004/NGO/1	3	**Statement submitted by World Population Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council**
E/CN.9/2004/NGO/2	3	**Statement submitted by IPAS, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council**
E/CN.9/2004/NGO/3	3	**Statement submitted by Interact Worldwide (formerly Population Concern), International Family Health and Italian Association for Women in Development, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council**
E/CN.9/2004/L.1	2	Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session
E/CN.9/2004/L.2 and Rev.1	6	Provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission
E/CN.9/2004/L.3	7	Draft report of the thirty-seventh session of the Commission
E/CN.9/2004/L.4	4 bis	Draft decision on the methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development, submitted by the Chairman of the Commission, Alfredo Chuquihuara (Peru), on the basis of informal consultations
E/CN.9/2004/L.5	3	Draft decision on the special themes for the Commission on Population and Development in the years 2005-2006, submitted by the Chairman of the Commission, Alfredo Chuquihuara (Peru), on the basis of informal consultations

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.9/2004/L.6	3	Draft resolution on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, submitted by the Chairman of the Commission, Alfredo Chuquihuara (Peru), on the basis of informal consultations

Annex II

Statements made in connection with the adoption of draft resolution E/CN.9/2004/L.6, under agenda item 3

1. The representative of the United States of America stated that her delegation had joined in the consensus with respect to adopting draft resolution E/CN.9/2004/L.6 but that it wished to make an explanation of its position for the record, a summary of which follows. She stated that the United States is a leader in providing international health assistance. In fiscal year 2003, the United States had provided about $1.82 billion for health programmes, including support for combating HIV/AIDS, and improving child survival and maternal health. The United States also provided nearly $474 million for education and training programmes in developing countries, mostly for children's basic education and literacy. President Bush's emergency plan for AIDS relief will provide $15 billion over five years to expand prevention and treatment programmes. The United States understood that the word "reaffirming" in reference to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, or any other United Nations conference documents did not constitute a reaffirmation of any language in those documents that could be interpreted as promoting abortion or the use of abortifacients. The United States supported the treatment of women who had suffered injuries or illness caused by legal or illegal abortion, including, for example, post-abortion care, and did not place such treatment among abortion-related services. The United States firmly supported the rights of conscientious objection for health-care workers whose personal beliefs might dictate their refusal to perform, or be involved in, abortion or abortion-related activities. She stated that the United States further understood that the term "unsafe abortion" defined a procedure for terminating a pregnancy either by persons lacking the necessary skills or in an environment lacking minimal medical standards, or both, and understood that the illegality of abortion could not be construed as making it unsafe. With regard to reproductive health for adolescents, the United States affirmed that abstinence was the preferred, most responsible, and healthiest choice for unmarried adolescents.

2. The representative of Ireland, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that were members of the European Union, requested that a clear reference to, and a summary of, its explanation of position on draft resolution E/CN 9/2004/L.6 be included in the report of the thirty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development. The candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, had aligned themselves with the statement of the European Union. Canada, New Zealand and Switzerland also associated themselves with the statement. The representative of Ireland welcomed the adoption by consensus of the resolution and the positive signal for the agenda of the

International Conference on Population and Development that the international community had thereby sent during the tenth anniversary year of the Programme of Action of the Conference. She was encouraged by the overwhelming reaffirmation and continued support for the Programme of Action during the opening plenary debate of this session. Her delegation considered that a strong and unequivocal reaffirmation of the Programme of Action was important, and that the latter was fundamental to the development and human rights agendas. She stated that the European Union considered the full implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions essential to the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals. She said that universal access to sexual and reproductive health services was central to that end and required the commitment of all Governments at the highest political level. Delivery also required the full partnership of the international community, in the spirit of Monterrey. The European Union remained fully committed to the Programme of Action and the key actions, and to accelerating progress towards their full implementation and the achievement of the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development.

3. The representative of Egypt requested that its statement on draft resolution E/CN.9/2004/L.6 be duly reflected in the official report of the Commission. He stated that Egypt associated itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that were members of the Group of 77 and China. He said that on the tenth anniversary of the convening of the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in September 1994, the Commission on Population and Development had adopted a consensus resolution reaffirming the outcomes of the Conference. This consensus reflected the continuous support for the Conference agenda on matters pertaining to population and development, and exemplified the need to continue exerting efforts, at all levels, towards the attainment of the goals, principles and commitments contained in the report of the Conference, in its entirety. He stated that this had been clearly stipulated in Cairo, and was clearly highlighted by the resolution adopted in this session. In this regard, the Egyptian delegation would like to underscore the necessity of the full respect, by all Member States, of the outcomes of the International Conference on Population and Development as contained in the said report, as well as in the report on the key actions. These reports included the Programme of Action, and its principles, goals, commitments and the reservations of a large number of Member States, including Egypt. In this context, the Egyptian delegation reaffirmed its position expressed at the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 and at the twenty-first special session of the Assembly in 1999, and pointed to its continuous efforts, at the national level, to implement the recommendations of the Programme of Action, bearing in mind its clear provision, in the preamble to the principles, that such implementation is the "sovereign right of each country, consistent with national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights". The representative of Egypt stated that, furthermore, at the international level, Egypt would continue to oppose the reinterpretation of language pertaining to traditional family values, or any other concepts contained in documents such as the Programme of Action, in a manner that

is inconsistent with its position. He stated that Egypt would continue to be steadfast in its opposition to and rejection of any attempts to impose new concepts or ideas that are inconsistent with its cultural values and religious beliefs.

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